

Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Tuesday - 7 February 1956

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2. I discussed with Cong. Scrivner (R., Kans.) a request he had made for comments on a statement by a German scientist to the effect that Soviet rocket research is lagging due to a lack of skilled personnel. I told the Congressman

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that on the basis of information received from all available sources, we did not consider it a safe assumption that the Russians lacked scientific know-how in the guided missile field. I also gave the Congressman a copy of the full text of the statement made by the German scientist which was the basis of his original inquiry. The Congressman indicated that he was extremely confused as to the exact state of Russian guided missile development, and he felt the Appropriations Committee, of which he is a member, should be given a thorough briefing on this whole subject. He intends to make such a recommendation to Chairman Cannon, although he did not know whether it would be accepted. He is quite bitter about the "headline seekers" on the other side of the aisle, whom he thinks are over-playing the significance of Russian guided missile progress in comparison with our own.

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4. Messrs. Kirkpatrick and Paul discussed with Judge Morris the desire of CIA to keep the [redacted] hearings in executive session. Morris declined to do so, saying that [redacted] had indicated that he would be pleased to appear in open session. At Mr. Kirkpatrick's suggestion, Judge Morris checked with the FBI and reported back that they could see no objection to the procedure contemplated.